



The Rise of Scholasticism

Scholasticism

- Medieval philosophical methodology and movement in Europe
- Became the predominant method of education in Italy, France, Portugal, Spain and England
- Use of logical analysis
- Attempts to reconcile Greek philosophy (Aristotle's metaphysics) with Christianity (Latin Catholic theology)
- Use of dialectical reasoning
- Appeared first in monastic schools that translated medieval Judeo-Islamic philosophies → rediscovery of Aristotle's works → became the basis of the universities and therefore the foundation for development of science and philosophy in Europe

Dialectical Reason

- The Dialectical method → people holding different points of view having dialogue
- Goal is to aim at the truth through rational argument
- Similar to debate, but must exclude emotional appeal, rhetorical appeals, etc.



Scholasticism as Method

- More of a method than a theology → strong emphasis on dialectical reasoning to resolve contradictions
- The method also included the use of careful drawing of distinctions
- In oral debate and in Scholastic writings → explicit disputation
 - A topic is broached as question
 - Different oppositional responses are given
 - Counter proposal suggested and oppositional arguments are considered



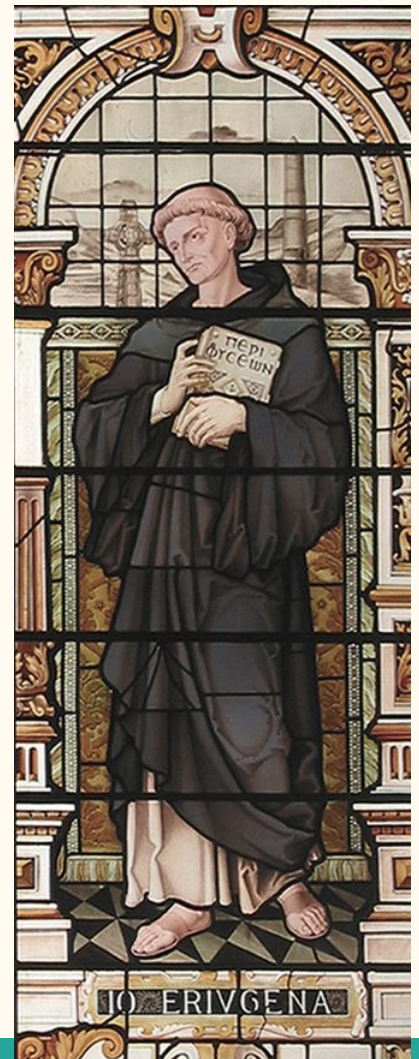
Charlemagne and the universities

- Renewal of learning in Early Middle Ages
- Carolingian Renaissance: revival of classical learning and careful consideration/refinement of religious and scholarly practices (8th-9th centuries)
- Charlemagne sought out scholars of England, but especially Ireland
- 787 A.D. → establishment of schools in every abbey of his empire



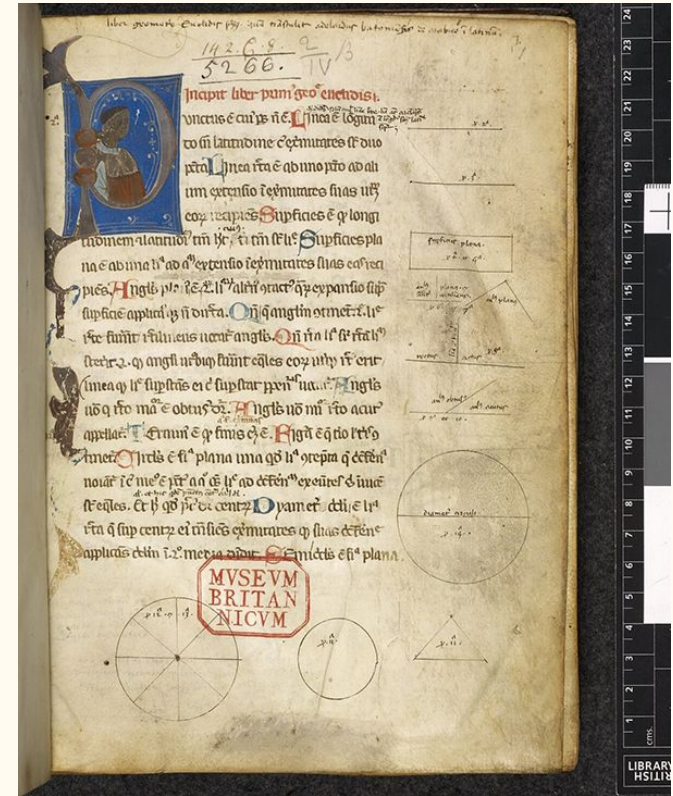
Irish Scholars

- Knowledge of ancient Greek had largely disappeared from Western Europe
- Exception: Ireland, where Greek was still part of monastic education
- Irish scholars were sought after and had a strong presence in the Frankish Court
- Famous for their learning
- Johannes Scotus Eriugena (815–877): one of the founders of scholasticism
 - Important Irish intellectual and philosopher
 - Fluent in Greek and translated many Greek works into Latin



“Rediscovery” of Greek

- Through both the Irish scholarship and the later Toledo School of translators in Muslim Spain → rediscovery of Greek works lost to Latin west
- Reconquista in 12th century led to Spain opening even more for Christian scholars
- Christian Europeans saw an increase in access to Judeo-Islamic philosophies → mathematics and astronomy
- First translation of Euclid’s *Elements* into Latin
- Important translators included Constantine the African in Italy, James of Venice in Constantinople, Adelard of Bath in Spain and Sicily



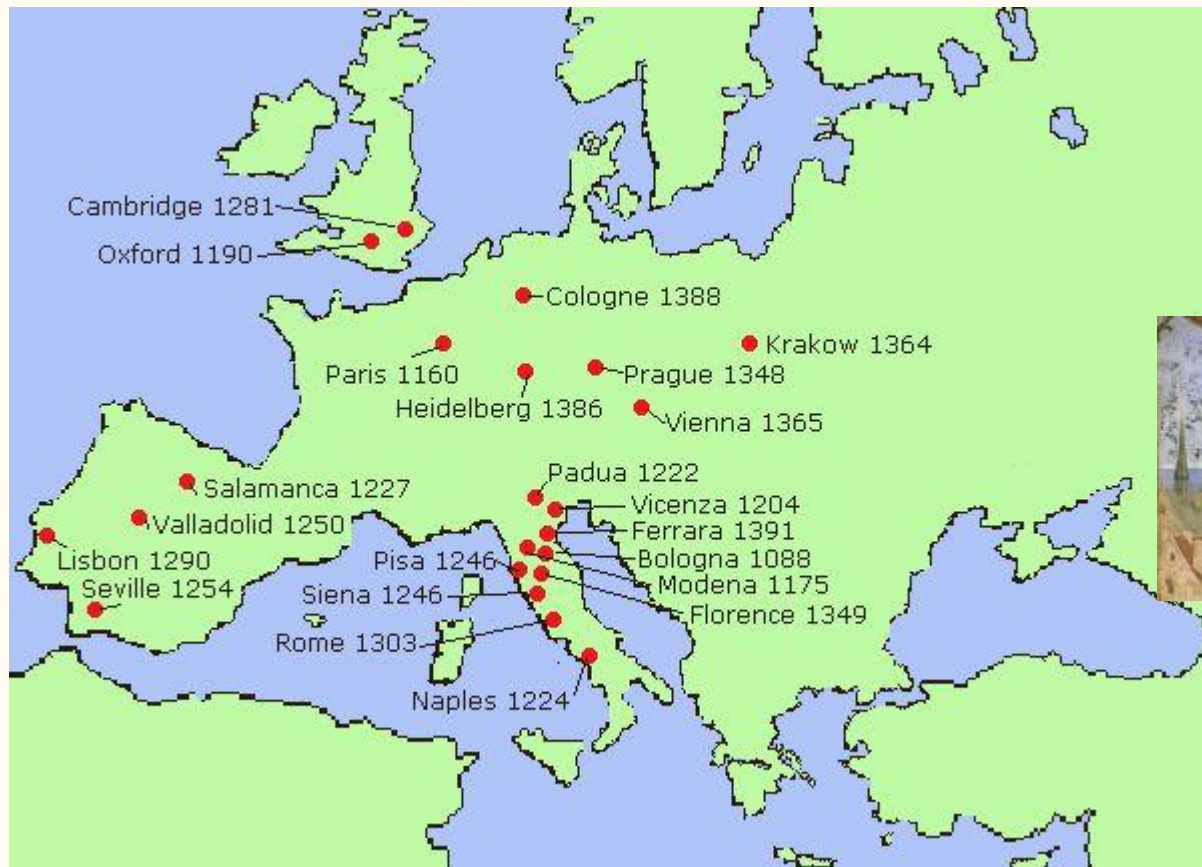
High Scholasticism (13th-14th centuries)

- 13th and 14th century → high period with culmination of incorporation of Greek philosophy
- Translation schools founded in Italy, Sicily, and then the rest of Europe
- Norman kings gathered scholars from Italy in their courts as a sign of their power
- 13th century translations of Greek texts by William of Moerbeke, esp. of Aristotle → translations from the Arabic which gave a clearer picture of Greek philosophy
- Edward Grant (1996): "Not only was the structure of the Arabic language radically different from that of Latin, but some Arabic versions had been derived from earlier Syriac translations and were thus twice removed from the original Greek text. Word-for-word translations of such Arabic texts could produce tortured readings. By contrast, the structural closeness of Latin to Greek, permitted literal, but intelligible, word-for-word translations."

Rise of the University (Franciscans)

- Development of universities had large impact on the trajectory of philosophy → moved power away from monastic schools
- Rival clerical orders began to compete for power and control over these new educational centers (Franciscans and Dominicans)
- Franciscans (founded by St Francis 1209), for instance, were led by Bonaventure who defended Augustine and Plato, and less on Aristotle → leaned more heavily on neoplatonism
- Reason can only find truth when founded on faith





Rise of the University (Dominicans)

- Contrasting order: Dominicans founded by St Dominic 1215
- Defending Christian doctrine through heavier reliance on the use of reason
- More extensive use of Aristotelian sources from Eastern sources and Spanish sources
- Represented mainly by Thomas Aquinas → coming together of Greek rationalism and Christian doctrine which would influence Catholic philosophy